AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring personnel operating at workplaces within confined spaces accessible via workplace access openings, the method comprising:

for each workplace access opening, providing a selectively configurable mobile workplace module comprising a video registration device producing video data, an audio interface for emitting and receiving audio data, a gas sensor to produce gas sensor data and an isolation transformer supplying low voltage electrical power;

mounting ~~the~~ a workplace module~~s~~ adjacent to each worksplace and at least partially within the confined spaces;

providing a mobile monitoring unit outside the workplaces and confined spaces, the monitoring unit comprising a display for displaying video data from the workplace modules, an audio interface for emitting and receiving audio data and a gas data receiver for receiving gas sensor data;

connecting the workplace modules for signal transfer of data collected at each workplace to a transmitting station;

transmitting data from the transmitting~~sion~~ station to the monitoring unit; and

monitoring at the monitoring unit the operation of personnel at the workplaces.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a workplace module comprises a presence detector and the method further comprises detecting the presence of a person at the workplace.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the presence detector comprises a workplace access registration device and the method further comprises registering the entry and exit of personnel into and from the confined space.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the presence detector comprises an identification device and the method further comprises identifying a person at a workplace and providing the identity to the monitoring unit.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a recording device and recording data transmitted to the monitoring unit.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising comparing gas sensor data with predefined gas data limits and generating a warning in the event that the gas data limits are exceeded.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one gas sensor is provided at a workplace.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the video registration device is controllable from the mobile monitoring unit and the method further includes controlling the video registration device to zoom, pan or tilt.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A safety monitoring system for monitoring of workplaces within confined spaces accessible via workplace access openings, comprising:

a plurality of selectively configurable mobile workplace modules each comprising a video registration device producing video data, an audio interface for emitting and

receiving audio data, a gas sensor producing gas sensor data and an isolation transformer supplying low voltage electrical power;

a transmitting station, whereby each of the workplace modules is connected for signal transfer ~~to~~ with the transmitting station; and

a mobile monitoring unit selectively connectable ~~to receive data transmission from the transmitting station to the workplace modules~~ for data transmission between the transmitting station ~~workplace modules~~ and the monitoring unit, the monitoring unit comprising a display for displaying video data from the workplace modules, an audio interface for emitting and receiving audio data and a gas data monitor for the gas sensor data.

15. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein the workplace modules further comprises a presence detector for detecting the presence of a person at a workplace.

16. (Currently amended) The safety monitoring system according to claim 15, wherein the presence detector comprises a workplace access registration device for registering the entry and exit of personnel through a workplace access opening into and from the workplace.

17. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 16, wherein the presence detector provides identification data to the monitoring unit, identifying the person at the workplace.

18. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 16, wherein the workplace modules have an active state and a passive state, and the presence detector is active to cause transition of the workplace modules from the passive state to the active state in response to the detection of a person at the workplace.

19. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim14, wherein the monitoring unit further comprises a recording device for recording data transmitted to the monitoring unit.

20. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein the gas data monitor compares gas sensor data with predefined gas data limits and generates a warning in the event that the gas data limits are exceeded.

21. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein the gas sensor is a direct gas sensor for location at a workplace.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, further comprising a mobile umbilical cable for connecting the workplace modules to the monitoring unit.

24. (Original) The safety monitoring system according to claim 23, wherein the mobile umbilical cable comprises an optical fibre for transmission of video data.

25. (Previously presented) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein the workplace modules comprises a plurality of video registration devices.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A selectively configurable workplace module for a safety monitoring system comprising a workplace unit and a plurality of sensors, the workplace unit comprising a plurality of data interfaces for receiving data from the sensors and transmitting data to the safety monitoring system, a plurality of power outlets for providing electrical power to the sensors and an isolation transformer for supplying the power outlets with low voltage electrical power.

30 – 35 (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The workplace module according to claim 29 whereby the workplace unit is adapted to transmit data to the safety monitoring system under Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

37. (New) The workplace module according to claim 29 for a workplace in a confined space having a workplace access opening, wherein the workplace unit comprises a single workplace access registration device for registering the entry and exit of personnel into the confined space through said access opening.

38. (New) The workplace module according to claim 29, wherein the sensors are each individually and independently connected to the workplace unit.

39. (New) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein each mobile workplace module is connected to receive video data, audio data and gas sensor data from a single workplace.

40. (New) The safety monitoring system according to claim 14, wherein each mobile workplace module comprises a workplace unit and a plurality of monitoring components and each monitoring component is independently connected to a respective interface with the workplace unit.

41. (New) The safety monitoring system according to claim 16, wherein each mobile workplace module comprises one single workplace access registration device for registering the entry and exit of personnel to a single workplace.

42. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein each confined space comprises a single workplace access opening and each workplace unit is located adjacent to a respective workplace access opening.